

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SEALING AND CUTTING

An axial elongate bipolar tissue sealer/cutter and method of use by a surgeon
 for electrosurgery on tissue has a handle. A chassis on the handle extends axially for
 axial movement. A tube may move axial relative to the chassis. An effector on a distal
 end of the chassis first contacts tissue with axial movement. The effector provides
 bipolar electrosurgery. A member extending from the distal end is opposite the patient
 end of the tube. A part on the member is transverse to the axis to conduct
 electrosurgery. First and second bipolar electrodes on the effector and part are
 electrically isolated. A generator for bipolar electrosurgery supplies the electrodes.
 An activator is movably supported on the handle connects to the tube and/or chassis to
 axially move the patient end and its effector relative to the part. Tissue and bodily
 fluid therebetween are sealed or cut through application of compression and bipolar
 electrosurgery between the first and second electrodes. The effector and the part have
 complimentary sealing or cutting surfaces for partial mating engagement upon axial
 movement toward one another. The effector and the part can be removably attached
 to the distal end or member, respectively. The partial mating complimentary surfaces
 may be normal or skewed relative to the axis and may be curvilinear, flat, parallel,
 circular, elliptical, triangular or have at least one conjugating rib and slot. A method of
 use has the steps of holding and manipulating the sealer/cutter, moving the chassis
 relative to the tube, positioning the effector and the port to contact tissue, along the
 axis coupling bipolar electrodes to the effector and part, electrically isolating the
 electrodes, selectively coupling the generator to the electrodes for supplying bipolar
 electrosurgery. Supporting the activator for moving axially relative to one another, the
 patient part and the effector so tissue therebetween is sealed or cut by applying
 compression and bipolar electrosurgery across the first and second electrodes are
 steps.